PATENT

DOCKET NO.: ORT-1440 **Application No.:** 09/870,338

Office Action Dated: December 1, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for determining the binding of a test substance to an $\alpha 2\delta$ subunit of a calcium channel comprising the steps of :

- (a) contacting a sample of neuroblastoma cell membranes comprising the $\alpha 2\delta$ subunit of a calcium channel with gabapentin and a test substance;
- (b) detecting binding of the gabapentin to the cell membranes; and
- (c) comparing the amount of binding of gabapentin of the sample as compared with a control sample lacking the test substance, thereby determining the binding of the test substance to the $\alpha 2\delta$ subunit.
- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cell membranes are part of intact cells.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cell membranes are obtained from an isolated cell membrane preparation.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the neuroblastoma cell membranes are IMR32, SK-N-MC or NG 108 cell membranes.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the neuroblastoma cell membranes are differentiated neuroblastoma cell membranes.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the differentiated cell membranes are obtained following incubation with BrdU.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of separating the cell membranes from unbound gabapentin.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the comparing step comprises measuring binding of labeled gabapentin bound to the cell membranes.

9-11. (Canceled).